

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

The claims are amended as follows:

2ul
B,
A12
1.(Amended) A zoom lens device comprising an aperture at a predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end, wherein the aperture is smaller than apertures at other zooming steps, and wherein the predetermined zooming step is used only when a macro shooting mode for obtaining a close-up of a subject is chosen.

4.(Amended) The zoom lens device as defined in claim 1, wherein the predetermined zooming step is closer to the telephoto end than the wide-angle end.

A13
2ul
B2
5.(Amended) A zoom lens device, comprising:
a zoom lens with a plurality of zooming steps;
a choosing device that chooses a macro shooting mode for obtaining a close-up of a subject;
a driving device that moves the zoom lens to a predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end when the choosing device chooses the macro shooting mode; and
an aperture restricting device that changes apertures according to the zooming steps so that an aperture, which is at a predetermined zooming step that is between the telephoto end and the wide-angle end, is smaller than apertures at the other zooming steps.

Am 7.(Amended) The zoom lens device as defined in claim 6, wherein the aperture switching device is used only when a macro shooting mode for obtaining a close-up of a subject is chosen.

Please add the following claim:

As
8.(New) A zoom lens device comprising:
a zoom lens with a plurality of zooming steps;
means for choosing a macro shooting mode for obtaining a close-up of a subject;
means for moving the zoom lens to a predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end when the choosing means chooses the macro shooting mode;
and
sub 84 means for changing apertures according to the zooming steps so that an aperture at a predetermined zooming step that is between a telephoto end and a wide-angle end is smaller than apertures at the other zooming steps.